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Subject: Re: plotting tool

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Robert Moss <[mossrm@texaco.com](mailto:mossrm@texaco.com)> wrote in article  
<32A45EB8.41C67EA6@texaco.com>...

> Craig Stevens wrote:

>>

>> Apologies up-front for the stupid question  
>> but somewhere in my IDL/PVwave travels I have  
>> come across a simple plotting tool for XY  
>> plots with labels etc that seemed to be good  
>> for those quick plots that are sometimes needed.

>>

>> ...

>>

>> If someone could suggest what routine I was  
>> looking at I would be v. happy. thanks

>>

> You are probably thinking of the program called PWIDGET. You can find  
> it in idl/lib/obsolete/pwidget.pro  
>

Or maybe GRAFFER (README below). If you walk 3 doors down the corridor,  
Craig, I'll show you my copy.

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GRAFFER

Author: James Tappin ([slt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk](mailto:slt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk))

Version 1.03 -- January 1996

GRAFFER is an X-Y plot generating package written in IDL. It needs a  
workstation or terminal supporting IDL widgets and at least version 4.0  
of IDL.

The approach of GRAFFER is an essentially pragmatic one. It aimed to  
fill the gap between the kind of simple plots that are trivial to do in  
IDL just by using the plotting procedures from the IDL> prompt and the  
sort of complex and specialised plots where it's worthwhile to write a  
specific program.

The main features are:

- \* Can plot X-Y data with optional error bars (only vertical bars at  
present): from a file, or from a simple text-widget editor, or from  
arrays accessible at the \$MAIN\$ level in IDL.

- \* Can plot functions:  $y=f(x)$ ,  $x=f(y)$  or  $x=f(t)$  &  $y=g(t)$ .
- \* Easy to change axis ranges, switch between log & linear plots and other XSTYLE & YSTYLE options.
- \* Add text at arbitrary locations, orientations, fonts etc.
- \* Can put multiple plots on one set of axes - with different colours, linestyle symbols etc. to distinguish them.
- \* Saves plots to an ASCII file which can be re-read & modified.
- \* Print to PostScript or save to EPS with customizable size & orientation. (Also GIF, TIFF & NRIF dumps available).

GRAFFER has been tested on a Sparc 5 running Solaris 2.4 - it ought to work on other unix systems and on VMS. Windows & Mac I'm much less certain about -- all I can suggest is try it & see.

#### Usage:

GRAFFER may be freely used, copied & distributed but please:

- 1) Don't claim you wrote it.
- 2) If you change it make it clear which bit you've changed and don't say I made the changes.
- 3) Let me know of you improvements.

Warranty: NONE - You didn't pay any money so you take your chance if it's useful: GOOD, if it isn't you got what you paid for.

Maintenance: I'll try to fix bugs, but don't expect any new features.

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